

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 10 have been amended, claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 9/1 and thus to recite that the network signal is an RPR frame signal, as was recited in claim 9 as originally filed and which is cancelled, and claim 10 was amended to depend from claim 1. No new matter is presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 and 6-10 are rejected.

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

ITEM 2: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4 AND 6-10 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e) FOR ANTICIPATION BY BAMBA (US PATENT PUBLICATION 2004/0008692)

The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Bamba discloses a transmission apparatus accommodating a plurality of asynchronous networks and a plurality of SONET/SDH networks, the apparatus including a plurality of asynchronous network interface units, each having an asynchronous network termination unit for inputting and outputting a packet from and to one of the asynchronous networks, and a mapping unit for carrying out a conversion process between the packet and a SONET/SDH frame. Nowhere, however, does Bamba teach that the network signal is a RPR frame signal. That is, claim 1, as amended, sets forth a specific configuration in which a RPR signal is transmitted, whereas Bamba is silent about any such specific configuration.

Applicants note that the Action attributes to Bamba the "use of RPR function..." such as at page 3, the last line in the grounds of rejection of claim 7 - - and in that instance, cites paragraph (0072) of Bamba in support. Likewise, the Action at page 4 in the grounds of rejection of claim 9, again cites that same paragraph (0072) and, further, in the third paragraph on page 4 in the grounds of rejection of claim 10 cites, instead, FIG. 2 of Bamba. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner errs in each instance - - specifically, and as asserted at the outset, Bamba has no teaching of a "RPR signal."

Indeed, the Action cites various other paragraphs of Bamba in the rejections of other claims (e.g., at page 3, (0067) and (0069) - (0070) as well as (0086) - (0089)), which likewise have no recitation of an "RPR signal..."

Indeed, the present invention relates to a new function, as explained at page 7, the first paragraph:

In the present invention, a new function corresponding to RPR is added to a transmission apparatus that performs ADM or cross-connect of the conventional SONET/SDH. The invention offers various, diligent services by use of an add/drop function not only with respect to SONET/SDH interface but also with respect to PDH (plesiochronous digital hierarchy) signals and the signals of networks such as ATM and LAN (which includes WAN and MAN in this specification), thereby providing support for network transmission close to access networks and edge networks. The provision of an SONET/SDH transmission apparatus conforming to RPR achieves the integrated control of the entire network. In the following, the construction of the apparatus according to the invention will be described.

(Emphasis added).

FIG. 2 of the application illustrates a block diagram of a first embodiment of a hybrid transmission apparatus in accordance with the invention:

...In Fig. 2, interface units 10W and 10E convert optical signals of SONET/SDH such as 40 Gbps, 10 Gbps, 2.5 Gbps, or 622 Mbps (OC768, OC192, OC48, or OC12) signals into the electrical signals, and synchronize the signals with a reference clock that is internal to the apparatus. The interface units 10W and 10E then establish inter-block interface with an SONET/SDH cross-connect unit 12 by use of signals having the STS-48(STM16)/STS-12(STM4) format.

(page 7, lines 20-29)

Bamba has no teaching of any structure similar to that of FIGS. 2 and 3 of the application.

Examiner furthermore is directed to the disclosure of the format of a RPR packet, with reference to FIG. 10, wherein:

Fig. 10 is an illustrative drawing showing the format of a RPR packet. A RPR packet is provided with a RPR header, which is comprised of a TTL indicative of the start of the IP packet, a Type indicative of the type of the packet, a ring identifier (RI) for identifying either inner or outer, a PRI indicative of priority, and an IPO indicative of whether inside or outside a profile. In Fig. 10, numbers in brackets indicate the number of bits.

(page 8, line 37 – page 9, line 9)

FIG. 4 illustrates an example of a large-scale network to which the hybrid transmission apparatus of the invention is applied, wherein:

Fig. 4 is an illustrative drawing showing an example of a large-scale network to which the hybrid transmission apparatus of the invention is applied. In Fig. 4, NEs (network elements) 101-104 and 105-108 make up respective WDM rings, with the NE 103 and NE 105 connected through a long-distance optical transmission path.

NEs 110 and 111, which form part of respective SONET/SDH rings, are connected to the NE 104. An NE 112 constitutes part of a RPR ring while constituting part of an SONET/SDH ring. That is, the NE 112 constitutes part of the SONET/SDH ring while making up the RPR ring together with routers 113-115. Moreover, an NE 108 makes up a RPR ring together with routers 116 and 117 while constituting a WDM ring. The transmission apparatus of the invention is used as the NE 112, and is also used as part of the NE 108.

(page 10, lines 1-18)

In total contrast to the RPR packet disclosure, Bamba illustrates the format of a packet in FIG. 5 -- which bears no resemblance to the packet shown herein in FIG. 10.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Bamba is unrelated to the technology disclosed and claimed in the present application and that the rejections of the pending claims based on Bamba are without basis and should be withdrawn and such action is earnestly solicited.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Bamba clearly fails to support the anticipation rejection of claim 1 and that claim 1 patentably distinguishes thereover as do the claims depending from claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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